



BELLEVUE CITY SCHOOLS ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

The Bellevue Athletic Department believes that interscholastic athletics can be an important supplement to a quality education by providing every participant the opportunity to grow mentally, morally, physically, and emotionally. To ensure that the program can provide these opportunities, a degree of self-discipline is required of each participant. Self-discipline involves compliance with rules and regulations concerning personal behavior. Rules and regulations promote order, safety, character, and assist athletes in reaching their maximum performance potential.

The Board of Education, administration, and athletic department feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program of athletics. Conduct by athletes, while representing a team, traveling to or from an event, as well as in the community, is seen as a direct reflection upon the athletic program and the standards of the school. It must be remembered that participation in athletic activities is not a right but a privilege that will be regulated.

With this belief, the Bellevue Athletic Department, fitting within the rules and regulations of the Bellevue City Schools Board of Education and the Ohio High School Athletic Association, sets the following code of conduct and policy as a minimum standard.

I. General Requirements of Athletic Participation

A. Adherence to all provisions as stated in the Student Handbook and Athletic Code of Conduct

B. Adherence to any additional rules established by the coach of athletics in which the athlete participates. These rules may be more sport specific and stringent based on the philosophy of the coach. The rules will be approved by the Athletic Director and kept on file in the Athletic Office.

C. All parents of athletes and athletes themselves must complete an athletic participation forms packet on Final Forms before participation begins. The packet contains the following forms and information:

1. Physical History and Physical Examination Form
2. OHSAA Authorization Form
3. Uniform Training Rules
4. Student Insurance Waiver
5. Emergency Medical Authorization Statement
6. BMS & BHS Athletic Code of Conduct
7. Ohio Dept. of Health Concussion Information Sheet
8. Bellevue City Schools Testing Consent Form
9. Sudden Cardiac Arrest & Lindsay's Law Signature Form

D. Financial obligations resulting from replacement of lost or stolen equipment and/or unpaid balances from sales projects must be paid prior to participation in any future athletic activity. Seniors must have any financial obligations paid by graduation.

E. All athletes in grades 7-12 are expected to follow the prescribed uniform training rules and regulations which are in effect throughout the school athletic calendar year, whether the athlete is in or out of season. The athletic school calendar year will begin on the first day of fall sport practice and run through the last day of school, or through any OHSAA tournament (athlete or team participation) which goes beyond the last day of school.

II. Eligibility Rules

A. Athletes must meet all eligibility requirements of the Bellevue City School District and any governing agency such as the Ohio High School Athletic Association, including but not exclusive to, those requirements pertaining to scholarship, residence, age, attendance, and transfers.

1. Students in 7th, 8th, and entering high school (9th grade) for the first time must be enrolled in and earn passing grades in a minimum of four courses each and every grading period to have continuing eligibility. All classes/subjects are weighted equally in this process.
2. Students established at the high school must pass courses that will earn a minimum of five (5) units of credit during the preceding grading period to be eligible for athletic participation.
3. A minimum GPA of 1.000 must be earned in those courses that apply toward eligibility.
4. OHSAA eligibility will be granted or denied each grading period.
5. Students enrolled in College Credit Plus classes should contact their guidance counselor for eligibility compliance.
6. Summer school classes do not impact athletic eligibility.

B. Athletes are required to attend school as least $\frac{1}{2}$ of the day to be eligible to practice or participate in a contest on any given school day unless pre-excused by the athletic director or principal. 11:00 a.m. has been established as the $\frac{1}{2}$ school day time of arrival. If students leave school they during the day because of illness, they cannot participate in after school practice or events. Prior administrative approval would be necessary.

C. Participation in extra-curricular activities is a privilege, not a right. Any athlete involved in an activity in or out of school that will bring discredit to our school, community, or any team will be subject to disciplinary action that may include:

- Denial of admission to a team.
- Denial of participation in try-outs, open gyms, fitness programs, practices, and contests.
- Removal from a team either for the remainder of the season or for a temporary period.

All athletes assume responsibility for regulating his/her personal life in and out of school in such ways as will make him/her an efficient member of a team and a worthy representative of his/her school.

Unacceptable behavior would include, but is not limited to, such offenses as:

1. Repeated truancy from school or class.
2. An act of immorality, theft, vandalism or physical abuse of persons or property.
3. Repeated infractions of school rules, disrespect, or disruption of school climate.
4. Abusive language, gestures or profanity.
5. Disrespectful behavior or unsportsmanlike conduct at or during athletic contests, practice sessions or school-sponsored events.

D. Athletes have up to the date of the official start of the respective sports season (as defined by the OHSAA) or until after “athletic cuts” are made of a particular sport to be permitted to change sports. After these dates, changes may occur under unusual circumstances and only with the agreement of all involved coaches and the Athletic Director.

E. If an athlete quits a sport after the date of the official start of the respective sports season (as defined by the OHSAA), or after “athletic cuts” have been made, he/she may be unable to participate in any coach led weight training conditioning or instruction in another sport until the sport he/she quit has completed its regular season. Being unable to participate as a result of quitting or being removed includes any conditioning, weight training, open gyms, individual instruction, or any other form of participation that is in preparation for another athletic program.

F. Once practice begins, the athlete is expected to be in attendance at every practice, scrimmage, and contest unless excused by the head coach. Violations of the mandatory attendance policy will be dealt with by the head coach as he/she sees fit; but altered playing time, contest suspensions, or removal from the team are some of the possible disciplinary measures.

1. Practices or contests missed because of a family vacation will not be considered an excused absence.
2. Athletes will not be excused from practices, contests, or team functions to attend another sport activity such as a showcase, clinic, practice, game, workout, J.O. volleyball match, indoor track meet, or AAU game. The athletic department discourages these types of activities when an athlete is a current member of a school athletic team, since being a member of a team brings a responsibility to oneself, the coaches, and teammates. The health and injury prevention of the athlete is also a concern.

G. All athletes must attend their respective awards banquet to receive any awards attained during that sport. Failure to attend means a forfeiture of all awards won by the athlete during that sport season. A student athlete may be excused from a banquet with prior permission from the athletic director or the head coach.

H. Any athlete suspended or expelled from school is also suspended from athletic activities including conditioning, open gyms, practices, scrimmages, games, etc.

I. Any athlete ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct or a flagrant foul shall be ineligible for contests for the remainder of that day as well as for all contests in that sport until two regular season/tournament contests (one in football) are played at the same level as the ejection. If necessary, a carry-over penalty will be invoked from one sports season to another. (OHSAA sport regulation)

III. Uniform Training Rules

A. Athletes shall be disciplined for use, abuse, or possession of tobacco (in any form such as cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, or snuff), any nicotine based product, any alcoholic beverages, or any unauthorized drugs and paraphernalia. ***The following three offenses will be for a high school athlete's whole career (grades 7-12), not just a school year, and will be effect for the entire school athletic calendar year. The school athletic calendar year will begin with the first official fall sport practice and will end with the last day of school, or through any OHSAA tournament (athlete/team participation) which goes beyond the last day of school.***

1. ***First Offense:*** Denial of participation for one full calendar year, and is placed on probation for one full year from the date of infraction. To be eligible for reinstatement during the current sport season, or for a future sport within the calendar year of participation denial, the athlete must attend:

- An educational program if the violation is a tobacco, e-cigarette, or nicotine based product offense.
- An evaluation/assessment from a professional counseling agency if the violation is an alcohol or unauthorized drug offense. The athlete must also cooperate with any related follow-up sessions or treatments recommended or assigned by the professional counselor.

a. Also in case of a tobacco violation, and/or any nicotine based products, and/or any form of e-cigarettes, the denial of participation will be modified to 25% of the sport contests upon completion of the reinstatement process.

b. Also in case of an alcohol or unauthorized drug violation, the denial of participation will be modified to 40% of the sport contests upon completion of the reinstatement process.

c. A carry over penalty from sport to sport will go into effect if necessary to complete the modification or reduction process. This carry over penalty will extend into another school year if applicable.

2. **Second Offense:** Denial of participation from all sports for one full calendar year. No modifications of contest participation exist. To be eligible for any future sports during the athlete's high school career, the athlete must schedule and receive an evaluation/assessment from a professional counseling agency. The athlete must also cooperate with any related follow-up evaluation, education, and/or treatment recommended or assigned by the professional counselor.

a. In case of a tobacco violation and/or any nicotine based product and/or any form of e-cigarettes, the denial of participation will be modified to 50% upon completion of a professional evaluation/assessment.

b. A carry over penalty will extend into another sport season or school year if applicable.

3. **Third Offense:** Denial of participation from all sports for the remainder of the athlete's high school career.

a. In case of a tobacco violation and/or any nicotine based product and/or any form of e-cigarettes, the denial of participation will be for one full calendar year. The athlete must receive an evaluation/assessment from a professional counseling agency and cooperate with any related follow-up sessions or treatment recommended if assigned by the counselor.

B. Attendance at parties or gatherings with alcohol and/or drugs. Athletes must not attend a gathering or party where alcohol or drugs are present. The athlete must leave immediately upon the presence of such substances. Remaining at the gathering or party violates this regulation. The athlete will be suspended for 25% of the current season or next sport season of participation. A carry over penalty will be enforced if the violation occurs at the end of a sport season. This carry over penalty can extend into another school year if applicable.

C. When an athlete serves the 40% first offense violation penalty, or the 25 % reduction penalty for presence at a party, the sport of participation needs to be participated in for the duration of the sport season for the reduction penalty to count.

D. No Selling or Distribution of Drugs or Alcohol.

1. **First Offense:** Immediate dismissal from all athletics from the point of the infraction for one full calendar year.

2. **Second Offense:** Immediate dismissal from all athletics from the point of the infraction for the remainder of high school career.